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to order to avoid delays on account monal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editorial or Business Department, according

Mr. Clark and the Speakership.

The democratic members-elect of the clerks downward through the salary next House from Kentucky have indorsed scale, the government virtually pen-Mr. Clark for Speaker. It is appropriate sioning them by granting them small action. Missouri sentiment is to be stipends in proportion to their abilitaken for granted. And next to the state ties and thereby preventing the inof Mr. Clark's adoption and residence gress of new workers capable of being comes the state of his birth. Kentucky trained to become in their turn as efthis son, who left her borders early and made a name for himself elsewhere. Now and then it is suggested that Mr.

Clark may have opposition. It is a blustering suggestion, and seems to rest upon organize its forces without reference discussion growing out of the proposition to the financial conditions of its workthat the committees of the next House ers. be chosen, not by the Speaker, but by a committee of that body appointed especially for that purpose. A sort of threat has circulated that if Mr. Clark does not subscribe to the proposition he will find himself in a hot corner.

Mr. Clark knows of the threat, and has probably canvassed the subject with his been prepared and passed on the propointimate friends and advisers, but so far sition, frankly made, that I'll tickle you has not publicly committed himself. and you tickle me. Hundreds of mallons There need be no hurry. There should be have been appropriated on that principle much reflection, both by Mr. Clark and of action. Scores of public buildings are those who are hunting him for an ex- in existence which otherwise would never pression. As there is no likelihood of an have been heard of. Insignificant screams extra session of the new Congress, twelve have been dredged which otherwise would months must elapse before Mr. Clark or have continued to pursue a shallow and democrats, whether for or against a comthe time better than by turning the mat-ter over in their minds in all of its pos-for a piece of pork, or rivers or creeks of a repeating rifle."

For it is a fact that reducing the Speaker to a mere presiding officer would pro- Uncle Sam would lend a hand, have pracduce a radically new House situation. Itically held up wo thy projects until rec-At the start there would be nothing to ognized. They would have their 'share.' guide by. The change might turn out a Otherwise, no appropriations for such song, it might turn out a sermon. Sup- purposes at all. pose it turned out a sermon. Suppose a sort of chaos resulted. Suppose the ma- terested, all sections have been heard. An jority discovered that it had swapped industry worthy of protection here has the devil for a witch. It would be a peril- combined with an industry unworthy of ous time for such a state of things. The it there or yonuer. The principle of next House will lay the foundations for protection wisely and justly applied has the next democratic national campaign, and if its affairs are not well managed democratic prospects will be dished.

do as well, but no better, than scores of ether democrats who will sit in the next House. He has no exceptional qualifications are a continued beyond the proper period, cannot be denied. The abuse of the principle and not the principle itself is the cause of the ca tions as a parliamentarian. But he is a legislator of long experience, a party leader of wide acquaintance, and with to log-rolling in Congress? If there is the power that has hitherto attached, and such a man, and particularly if he is a now attaches, to the speakership should, member of that body, the present is nis and would, give a good account of him- opportunity. Let him address the counself in the chair.

The Gas Rate Drop.

The local-users of gas heartily welcome the announcement that after the 1st of January the price in Washington will be 5 cents a thousand feet lower, bringing the rate down to 85 cents instead of 90. gas company to make a still further re- cussion. What he would overthrow is many valuable results will follow his enduction in 1912 if its profits justify. The not only a century old in practice, but is try upon a political career at a ripe age, average payer of gas bills is not just at deeply grounded in every-day human na- but in one respect at least his influence should be more than local. From his utwhether this astonishing generosity on Constitution itself is a give-anu-take af- likely to impress his countrymen most the part of the gas company is wholly fair. This beautiful capital side is sockmore. He feels that even at 85 cents if they can be extirpated, or even lessened good gas can be made at a sufficient profit in number and effect, it should by al. wants good gas. He wants no diminu- can be abolished a remedy for log-rolling tion in the quality, the illuminating must be discovered. power or the purity. He wants no poisonous by-products such as may possibly be produced by a cheapening of the process of manufacture, no carbon monoxide, for

In view of the recent "melon cutting" the gas company and this present 4ren of 5 cents in the selling price there would seem to be no danger of bankruptcy for the corporation. It is obvious to all that prosperity reigns in 10th street. It may be that the prosperity is so great, as evidenced by the late distribution of extra profits, that it is deemed wise to forestall a public demand for participation in these heavy earnings in the form of compulsory rate reduction. Perhaps the company is proceeding upon the theory that it is better to concede a five-cent drop in price than to be forced by Congress to give a ten-cent drop. Still the proverb about its being the unexpectthere is evidence that a disposition pre- ed that always happens. valls in some quarters to ignore the concession and to continue the demand for an adjustment that will give the public rally carries with it the assurance that pure gas at the lowest rate compatible there will be no reduction in illuminating with the just claims of the stockholders efficiency. fer a reasonable profit on an unwatered

Even the joyous Christmas season can- keep it busy for years to come. eavying the neighbor who has had his

street cleaned. Some of the topics in presidential mes-

sages have been recurring for a great

Departmental Retirement. That the government should make

some provision for the retirement of the elder clerks in the public service departments has been the view of an increasing number of legislators and administrative officials for several years. Heads of departments, chiefs acts wisely in deciding to recognize the of bureaus and all others in author ty extradition principle in the Charlton case. have seen unmistakable evidences of It is true that there is no mutuality of the bad effect of keeping men and agreement between this government and From the New York Tribune. women on the rolls because of a hu- Italy on the score of the surrender of mane indisposition to dismiss them criminals or persons accused of crime, the when they have failed physically and and efficient service. The cold business trial in other countries by a constitutional toothpick. aspect of the case demands an undis- provision which guarantees the Italian criminating clearance of all dead wood. subject a trial under his own laws, for But fortunately the government has all offenses, wherever committed. In the net reached the point of heartlessness present instance the United States could well conducted private establishments. trial in Italy a subject of that govern- are really needed. President Taft strongly urges in his ment accused of committing murder in the annual message the adoption of a sys- United States. Therefore a refusal on the tem of compulsory departmental sav- part of the United States to extradite Por- From the Baltimore Sun. ings which will permit the retirement terChariton on the score of a lack of treaty Nobody has seen any mules driven up of the superannuated with sufficient to obligation to do so would leave it facing the middle of Pennsylvania avenue to the maintain them after they have ceased the necessity of granting him freedom Capitol yet.

to be capable of effective service. He under a writ of habeas corpus, and thus. holds that a straight civil pension is though self-confessed of the taking of undesirable for reasons which he sets human life, he would stand immune from forth, and he advocates the adoption of a plan whereby the clerks themselves shall save their own annuit es, with such help at the outset of the process from the government as will enable the elder workers to retire at once without waiting a sufficient length of time to accumulate their proportionate allowance. For this purpose the Gillett bill, now pending in Congress, furn shes a satisfactory medium of legislation, and the President urges its enactment with an amendment which will enable the government to pay the annuities of the clerks immediately eligible for retirement out of the salthe annuities granted and the salaries to be used for the employment of effi-

cient clerks at the lower grades.

relieved from daily toil. They are re-

tained in recognition of their faithful,

valuable services in the past and their

hundreds of younger and in some re-

spects more capable clerks are await-

apart from the question of humanity.

require the early adoption of some

method whereby the government can

Congressional Log-Rolling.

Three bills have always led to what is

It was log-rolling that did the business.

Senators and representatives with ambi-

where there was talk of more traffic it

As for the tariff, all sections being in-

But that it has been in some cases un-

wisely and unjustly applied, or continued

New who has a pian for putting an end

senators and representatives may be

bration which its opening will offer.

no information of practical service.

who have not really read it.

telepathically expressed.

The Charlton Extradition.

Italian government claiming that it is

"ex-President Diaz."

Many of the governors who expect to

dential aspirants.

It is vitally important that some J. J. Hill is doubtless pleased to look measure of departmental retirement about and note that business conditions should be adopted forthwith. The govare not nearly as bad as they were repernment departments are congested toresented in the alleged interview with day with capable men and women who have already reached or are now at-

punishment and go forth a free man for

the rest of his days. The higher require-

ments of justice certainly call for some

Knox's decision is based upon this su-

and technicalities. It is inspired by the

highest concept of modern international-

its continued failure to adjust its laws

and international agreements to suit the

conditions of today. An extradition

reaty with Italy is seriously needed at

deavoring to crush out a most dangerous

form of criminal enterprise conducted by

form and measure of atonement for this

The Congressional Record manages to get in a little advertising for various political booms without causing any question as to rates of postage.

Mexicans would regard an election such

as the English hold as a mere siesta.

SHOOTING STARS

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Self-Depreciation.

bile of yours?" inquired the curbstone sympathizer. ficient as the elders. All considera-"Nothing much," replied Mr. Chuggins tions of good business management, except that it's got a fool owner."

A December Apparition. Where is the hobble-skirted belle? .

Alas! Instead one views A storm coat and a big umbrell' And clumsy overshoes!

Dreaming On.

"When I get to the legislature," said called log-roiling in Congress-a public Si Simlin, "I'm going to make a few buildings bill, a river and harbor bill and speeches jes' to show 'em I'm wide a tariff bill. All three have invariably "Makin' speeches won't convince nobody," replied Farmer Corntossel. "'Pears | * to me like when a feller's been in the

Not Progressive.

legis.ature awhile, talkin' in his sleep

"I am afraid that revolutionist's ideas of statesmanship are very crude," said one South American statesman. joined the other. "He insists on using a shotgun instead

comes natural to him."

Nervousness. "Does tobacco make a man nervous?"

"It is likely to," replied the physician, "if his wife objects to his smoking."

A Transportation Problem. Reindeers' mighty skittish and

Dey don' look strong o' limb. Foh travelin' 'cross de winter land Out in de starlight dim No matter whut's de freight you draws,

"Go slow's" de safest rule; If I wus Mistuh Santy Claus I'd git myse'f a mule.

Course, he could have a motor car-But s'pose she staht to skid? Dem aeroplanes dey travels far; But s'pose dey comes undid An' draps de outfit?-if he'd pause An' figger calm an' cool, I bet ol' Mistuh Santy Claus

Would git hisse'f a mule. Coaching the Little States.

blought to see beyond their own local From the New York World. Gov.-elect Baldwin of Connecticut brings boundaries and put a national interpreto his office great learning in law and histation on their commissions, and he will tory as well as democratic principles of attract more attention for the moment government. His long career on the attract more attention for the moment his experience as an instructor at Yale But he should prepare for a lively dis- knowledge to others. It is probable that present disposed to speculate as to ture. The fathers were log-rollers. The terances to date we should say that he is forcibly by emphasizing the peculiar re-sponsibilities and duties of the smaller sincere or partly strategic. He accepts eted in log-rolling. Nevertheless, great states. For this work he will find inspithe benefits with thanks and hopes for evils have grown out of the practice, and ration in the early history of his own commonwealth. Counting New Mexico and Arizona, there are twenty-one states with populations ranging from about to warrent a further reduction. But he means be done. Before the pork barreis 1,000,000 downward. All together they have only one-eighth of the population of he mation and of the 391 members of the House of Representatives they have but forty-five. In the Senate, however, soon The discussion of rivers and harbors to have ninety-six members, they will contribute forty-two. United for a commay have its severe moments, but there mon purpose in that body they would be is not much prospect of its producing any he small states in the convention of 1787 such controversy as grew out of conserment. They especially feared centraliza-In the opinion of some exposition protions. If statehood were to be slighted in moters, the Panama canal's greatest im-portance is due to the occasion for cele-suffer, for in a sense that was all they

Culture in Buildings.

A trip in an airship to the highest altitude yet attained resembles a journey to the north pole, in that it resulted in An ordinance to limit the height of buildings to 200 feet is before the Chicago city council, and there is a lively battle going on over it. The best argument offered against the measure is that it comes too late. After that height has been exceeded by scores of buildings it is be President cannot affo.d to overlook unjust to apply the rule to others. There is the trouble in city building—having once started wrong, it is impossible to retrace the steps and start again. Having once been indifferent to streets, parks, A reduction in the price of gas natubuildings, etc., the mistake must remain. It is a bad idea and should in some way be corrected. Without reference to the old, the new should begin right, and observe the rules of art and refinement Congress never assembles without being such a course would improve the taste of confionted with enough suggestions to people and gradually pull the city out of its ugliness. The doctrine "he which is filthy let him be filthy st ll," is the doctrine of the final ultimatum, when hope As usual, there are a number of opinions is gone and forbearance ceases. That exion the President's message from people gency has not arrived. The time for turning over a new leaf is not past. Whenever a street is made, a house is built, a payement laid down, the sense of The differences between Mr. Pinchot and fitness and beauty should have its part in Mr. Ballinger are still acute, though only the work.

New York in the News.

It looks as if in the lexicon of Mexican From the Chicago Tribune. politics there were to be no such word as It is always a matter of national importance when New York city has a snowstorm, and should the storm assume the dimensions of a blizzard it is entitled to a scare head and a prominent position The State Department unquestionably on the first page.

Long-Felt Wants.

The "noiseless scup spoon" as an adjuvant to polite table manners should be accompanied with a knife which cannot be used for shovel ng pie into the mouth mentally after many years of faithful prevented from extraditing its citizens for and a fork which is incapable of use as a

Navy Yards.

From the Philadelphia Press. It would be nice if the government could when it can deny to its capable em- not assume jurisdiction over the accused give every seaport a navy yard all to itployes of many years the consideration even though the Italian government self; but as it can't, the best course unthat is ordinarily given to workers in might in a corresponding case place on doubtedly is to keep only those yards that

Give Him Time.

《湖水运水运水湖水运水湖水湖水湖水湖 Xmas Gifts for Women.

crime, whether the United States or Italy These gifts for women have beauty and utility to recommend them. Splendid preme law, transcending all treaty texts assortment - reasonable ism, and it is calculated to bring the Ital ian government to face the anomaly of

Calendars. Blotter Pads Chatelaine Bags. Carriage Bags. Dressing Cases. Jewel Pockets. Handkerchief Boxes Music Rolls. Thermos Bottles. Manicure Sets. Watch Wristlets.

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Handsome Leather Hat Boxesscuttle and square shapes—made to hold several hats—\$10 and \$12. WOMEN'S HATS AT HALF PRICE All the autumn styles in Trim-med Hats are offered now at half

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December Clearance Sale Women's and Misses' Outergarments.

EADJUSTING stocks brings to light the fact that our assortments of Women's and Misses' Ready-to-wear Outer Apparel are larger than we ordinarily carry at this time of the year; and in order to reduce the several stocks to their proper proportions we shall inaugurate Monday morning a Special Clearance Sale of Outer Garments, comprising Silk and Wool Dresses, Imported and Domestic Suits, Day and Evening Coats, Imported and Domestic Waists, Sweaters, etc.

These are all high-class productions—creations of the leading foreign and domestic manufacturers—in this season's latest and most fashionable styles, designs and effects - not a few of which are exclusive. The time of the year, the character of the garments and the special prices make this a sale of importance, and should appeal forcibly to all having such needs. We will attempt only a brief outline-your interests will be best served by a personal inspection.

In the Women's Section.

Coat Suits.

Tailored and trimmed styles, o rich broadcloths, handsome velvets, fine serges, attractive chevi ots, soft zibelines and other modish materials. Designed and cut along up-to-date lines and made and finished in the highest class manner. Suits of character, refinement and individuality-even in the lowest priced garment.

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Good, warm, stardy coats, suitable for traveling, automobiling and general everyday wear, fashioned of fancy cheviots, serges, homespuns, cashmeres and other fine quality materials.

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Dresses

Rich, sumptuous wraps; mod- Fashioned of taffeta and messaels of distinction, embodying the line silks, crepe de chine, chiffon, depicting the very latest fashion latest whims of fashion. Rich serges, broadcloths and other chiffon broadcloths, elegant handsome materials. Imported of these models and the beauty satins and soft, clinging zibelines, and domestic creations, in mostly of the various trimmings make in the most fashionable colors, as one-of-a-kind styles and designs, them highly desirable. and portraying fashion in its lat-

est and most effective modes. \$15.00 Dresses-\$9.75. \$25.00 Dresses-\$16.75. \$37.50 and \$40 Dresses-\$25.00. \$8.75. \$50.00 Dresses-\$37.50. \$57.50 Dresses-\$40.00. \$69.75 Dresses-\$50.00. \$97.50 Dresses-\$75.00. \$125.00 Dresses-\$95.00. \$150.00 Dresses-\$100.00. \$195.00 Dresses-\$125.00.

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Silk and net; models correctly tendencies; and the individuality

\$4.50 Silk Waists-\$2.05. \$5.75 Silk Waists-\$4.50 \$8.75 Lace Waists-\$6.75. \$10.00 Silk and Lace Waists-

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Tailored and lingerie styles; made of hand-embroidered linen, marquisette and fine batiste, in the very latest effects, variously trimmed with crochet insertion, linen cluny lace, tucks, etc. Odd sizes-but unusual values for

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In the Misses' Section.

COATS, 5 TO 10 YEARS.

Fashioned of velvets, broadcloths, caracul, plush, corduroy, etc. in the latest plain tailored designs and trimmed and hand-embroidered effects.

\$10.00 Coats-\$7.75. \$25.00 Coats-\$19.75. \$20.00 Coats-\$14 75. \$8.75 Coats-\$6.75 \$6.75 Coats-\$5.00. \$12.50 Coats-\$9.75. \$15.00 and \$16.50 Coats-\$12.75

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Made of rich broadcloths, soft zibelines, handsome fancy mixtures and other fashionable materials, in the most approved styles of the season.

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Also a special lot of Coats for little girls from 6 to 14 years of age offered at very attractive prices. Fashioned of new rough cloths, in plain colors and neat gray mixtures, and in full-length double-breasted style, built on loose lines, with high and low necks and lined with red flannel or materials to match. Especially desirable for school wear.

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plain and diagonal effects, and shepherd's checks and plaids. Most of the waists are plain; the skirts in the newest styles; some enriched by touches of Persian silk, etc.

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In sizes 14, 16 and 18—charming one-piece styles, and mostly one-

of-a-kind designs, fetchingly made of rich broadcloths and serges, in

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